

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-07 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

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O 181635Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3169

DIA WASHDC//A/H//

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, CG, US

SUBJ: REGIONAL COMMISSIONER INPOUNDS DAO PLANE IN LUBUMBASHI

1. AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI REPORTS AS FOLLOWS. QTE. DAO AIRCRAFT WITH SIX PASSENGERS ARRIVED 1700 HOURS JUNE 17 FOR THREE-DAY VISIT. CONSULATE LUBUMBASHI HAD NOTIFIED DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF OF STAFF LOCAL MILITARY HEADQUARTERS ON FRIDAY, JUNE 13, OF INTENDED VISIT BY DATT (COLONEL GROW). AT SAME TIME HE ASKED COMMISSAIRE IF THEY HAD RECEIVED AUTHORITY FROM KINSHASA FOR DATT TO VISIT GECAMINES BUT RECEIVED NEGATIVE REPLY.

2. MORNING JUNE 18 DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATOR INFORMED MARKS THAT PERMISSION FOR GECAMINES VISIT HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN RECEIVED. DATT THEREFORE DECIDED TO GO ON SHORT FLIGHT IN AREA, OSTENSIBLY TO CHECK MALFUNCTIONING PART ON AIRCRAFT. FYI. DATT AND CONSUL DISCUSSED WISDOM THIS FLIGHT AND DAO SAID SUCH FLIGHTS ARE COMMON AND KNOWN TO KINSHASA MILITARY AUTHORITIES. END FYI. DATT THEN FLEW TO LIKASI WHERE TOLD LOCAL AUTHORITIES THAT HE MADE PRECAUTIONARY LANDING TO CHECK MALFUNCTION LIGHTS.

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3. AT 1545 MARKS WAS CALLED TO REGIONAL COMMISSIONER'S

OFFICE. IN COMPANY OF HIS SENIOR ASSISTANTS (INCLUDING REGIONAL ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF AND DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION) COMMISSIONER ASKED FOR EXPLANATION OF PRESENCE OF DAO AIRCRAFT AND PURPOSE OF LANDING IN LIKASI. HE CLAIMED HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF DATT VISIT PRIOR REPORT OF AIRCRAFT LANDING IN LIKASI. COMMISSIONER HAD ORDERED AIRCRAFT DETAINED IN LIKASI BUT ORDERS NOT IMPLEMENTED.

4. DURING THIS CONVERSATION COMMISSIONER RECEIVED CALL THAT AIRCRAFT RETURNING TO LUBUMBASHI. HE TOLD MARKS THAT AIRCRAFT WOULD BE PLACED UNDER MILITARY DETENTION. THE TWO COLONELS AND MRS. GROW COULD RETURN TO LUBUMBASHI UNDER SURVEILLANCE BUT THREE SERGEANTS IN DAO PARTY WOULD BE PHYSICALLY HELD AT COMMISSARIAT PENDING INSTRUCTIONS HE INTENDED TO REQUEST FROM KINSHASA.

5. FOLLOWING LUBUMBASHI'S RADIO REPORT TO KINSHASA, ALL REPEAT ALL MEMBERS OF DAO PARTY RETURNED TO LUBUMBASHI WHERE THEY ARE AT PRESENT.

6. AT 1544 LOCAL SECURITY AGENTS ARRIVED AT LUBUMBASHI AND TOLD RECEPTIONIST THAT NO ONE REPEAT NO ONE (INCLUDING LOCAL EMPLOYEES) COULD LEAVE BUILDING OR GROUNDS. CONSUL TALKED WITH COMMISSAIRE AND OTHERS AND SITUATION NOW IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. TWO COLONELS AND WIFE ARE TO GO TO HOTEL;

B. THREE SERGEANTS ARE TO GO TO GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE REPEAT GUEST HOUSE FOR NIGHT WHERE THEY WILL BE UNDER GUARD. CONSULATE OFFICER WILL ACCOMPANY. (EMBASSY AUTHORIZED RELEASE OF THREE SERGEANTS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

C. CONSUL HAS DISCUSSED SITUATION IN DETAIL WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ADDITION TO COMMISSAIRE. THEY ARE SYMPATHETIC AND CONSUL HOPES SITUATION WILL CLEAR SOON. UNQTE.

7. EMBASSY COMMENT: DAO GAVE CUSTOMARY NOTIFICATION TO ZAIRIAN DEFENSE AUTHORITIES (DDRSM) RE LUBUMBASHI FLIGHT ON JUNE 4 (TWO WEEKS NOTICE IS REQUIRED). AS USUAL, ZAIRIAN OFFICER OF DDRSM WAS INVITED TO ACCOMPANY AND INVITATION WAS ACCEPTED. HOWEVER, OFFICER DID NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOW UP AT DEPARTURE TIME AND DAO PLANE TOOK OFF AFTER WAITING 45 MINUTES. EMBASSY INSTRUCTED CONSUL MARKS THAT IN HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH REGIONAL COMMISSIONER FOR PROMPT RELEASE OF PLANE AND RETURN OF ALL MEMBERS OF DAO PARTY TO KINSHASA HE WAS EMPOWERED TO USE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE: "IT IS COL. GROW'S RESPONSIBILITY, AS HE KNOWS, TO RESPECT THE LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND LEGAL INSTRUCTIONS OF DULY CONSTITUTED AUTHORITIES OF

GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE. IF IT IS CONFIRMED, THAT HE HAS
FAILED IN THIS, THE AMBASSADOR WILL ARRANGE HIS RETURN
TO THE US FORTHWITH".
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